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Bay (architecture)

In architecture, a **bay** is the space between architectural elements, or a recess or compartment. The term *bay* comes from Old French *baie*, meaning an opening or hole.^[1]

Examples

1. The spaces between posts, columns, or buttresses in the length of a building, the division in the widths being called aisles. This meaning also applies to overhead vaults (between ribs), in a building using a vaulted structural system. For example, the Gothic architecture period's Chartres Cathedral has a nave (main interior space) that is "seven bays long." Similarly in timber framing a bay is the space between posts in the transverse direction of the building and aisles run longitudinally.^[2]
2. Where there are no columns or other divisions, and regularly-spaced windows, each window in a wall is counted as a bay. For example Mulberry Fields in Maryland US, a Georgian style building, is described as "5 bay by 2 bay", meaning "5 windows at the front and 2 windows at the sides".
3. A recess in a wall, such as a bay window.^[2]
4. A division of space such as an animal stall, sick bay, or bay platform.^[2]
5. The space between joists or rafters, a *joist bay* or *rafter bay*.^[2]



Lyme Park in Cheshire, England. The main facade is divided by pilasters into fifteen bays, equalling the number of windows.



Looking down the center *aisle* of the Saint Roch Parish Church of Lemery, Batangas, Philippines, the spaces between each set of columns and roof trusses are a *bay*.

East Asia

The Japanese *ken* and Korean *kan* are both bays themselves and measurements based upon their number and standard placement. Under the Joseon, Koreans were allocated a set number of bays in their residential architecture based upon their class.

See also

- Architectural elements

References

1. "Bay" *Online Etymology Dictionary*. http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?allowed_in_frame=0&search=bay&searchmode=none accessed 3/10/2014
2. "Bay", n.3. def. 1-6 and "Bay", n.5 def 2. *Oxford English Dictionary* Second Edition on CD-ROM (v. 4.0) © Oxford University Press 2009



An interior bay, between the supports of the vaults, in Lyon Cathedral, France.

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